

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB
OF LYONS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district, the Women's Club of Lyons on its 50th Anniversary celebration this year.

For five decades, the Women's Club of Lyons has promoted civic responsibility, philanthropy and friendship throughout its community. Chartered in April 1955, the Women's Club aims to encourage its members to become civic minded and socially active with charitable causes and community awareness and development.

From its early days, the Women's Club has branched out into other charitable endeavors, including funding Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, American Cancer Society, Lyons Food Pantry, youth programs with the Lyons Recreation Department, the Ronald McDonald House, the Constance Morris home for battered women, the Wives and Children Fund of the New York Policemen and Firemen's fund after 9/11, and the Stars and Stripes fund, as well as many other charitable causes.

However, the club still maintains much of its original character as a place for women to form the bonds of friendship and camaraderie through its social activities and monthly meetings which feature speakers discussing important issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Western Springs Women's Club and all of its members, past and present, on its 50 years of service to its community.

COMMENDING BERNARD RYAN
FOR EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Mr. Bernard ("Bernie") Ryan of the City of Buffalo who has been selected by the United Irish-American Association to lead The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2005 as this year's Grand Marshal.

First held on March 17, 1913, the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade pays tribute to the patron Saint of Ireland and after a short interruption from 1917–1935, the parade has been held every year since 1935, with the exception of the World War II years (1942–1945).

Buffalo, New York, like many other communities throughout the United States, has a large Irish American population and the St. Patrick's Day parade offers Irish Americans along with people from all ethnic backgrounds, an opportunity to celebrate one component of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Every year, thousands of people flock to Delaware Avenue in Downtown Buffalo to cheer on fellow citizens, Irish dancers, bands, and civic organizations who march in honor of St. Patrick.

The UIAA's election of Bernie Ryan as this year's Grand Marshal marks a proud moment for Bernie and his family, wife Karen and children Kathleen and Bernard Jay as Bernie embarks upon this once in a lifetime journey.

Four generations have worn the top hat and carried the blackthorn that belonged to Mike Quinn, Buffalo's first grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade back in 1913.

Bernie Ryan joins the ranks of other distinguished grand marshals and is honored for a lifetime of exemplary civic involvement.

Bernard served in the U.S. Army on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon return, he dedicated himself to family, work and community. He has had a 35 year career at Freezer Queen Foods where he has risen to the position of Controller. He is an active parishioner at St. Martin's Church in South Buffalo where neighborhoods are distinguished not by streets but by the parish to which you belong.

Bernie has always been particularly involved with various Irish organizations. Whether with the Irish Dancing School with whom his daughter Katie was a student, as a Board Member of the Gaelic American Athletic Association or as a member of the Parade Committee, Bernie's presence and commitment is unwavering.

Bernie is proud of his heritage and understands the importance of preserving our unique history as a community. I am proud to call Bernie Ryan my friend and I am pleased to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE LONDON
S. GILES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private Landon S. Giles, who died on February 26, 2005, in Iraq. Landon was just 19 years old and from Arkadelphia, Arkansas. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Landon graduated from Arkadelphia High School in May 2004, and left for the army the very next month to serve as an indirect fire infantryman. Landon was assigned to the Army's 6th Squadron, 8th Cav. Reg., 4th Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. based at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Landon had a thirst for playing sports and seeking new adventures. He played football in Junior High School, soccer at Arkadelphia High School, he loved to ski and snowboard, he played in local youth league baseball programs, and became a certified scuba diver at the age of 12. He went deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfed in Hawaii, rode an elephant through parts of Thailand, and even went on a jungle safari.

Joining the army and fighting for his country in Iraq, his family says, was Landon's next life adventure. While his family did not want him to go, there was no stopping Landon once his heart and mind seized upon an idea. He told his sister, Jenny, it was better for him to go than for a man with a wife and children. Landon heard news reports about the human rights violations occurring in Iraq and wanted to help people who were unable to help themselves.

Landon gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a brother,

son, hero, and friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Kim Giles; his father, Alan; two sisters, Jo Ann and Jennifer; stepmother, Cynthia Kay Giles; two step-sisters, Angela and Alana Giles; and a step-brother, Jeremy Giles. I know Landon was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew and counted him as a friend.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 199, recognizing the contributions of the Marine Corps and the other branches of the United States Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. The commemoration of these branches of the military, and most importantly the soldiers who fought in this battle, is crucial. We must take into account every day the bravery and dedication that the men and women of the Armed Forces have shown us.

The United States military sent more Marines into Iwo Jima—110,000—than in any other battle in World War II. The Air Force and Navy also played pivotal roles in securing a victory for the United States.

The 36-day battle that began on February 19, 1945 was an arduous campaign for the United States, largely due to the underground bunkers the Japanese had built. These subterranean caves allowed the Japanese to see the Marines, but the U.S. soldiers had no visual on the Japanese. After days of battle and U.S. casualties totaling over 25,000, our troops finally took control of Mount Suribachi, securing victory for the United States of America and the Allied Forces.

The image of soldiers like Mike Strank, Harlon Block, and Franklin Sousley raising our flag in glory, as portrayed by the Iwo Jima Memorial, reminds us of the perseverance and devotion to country exemplified by the Armed Forces. Because of these acts of bravery and dedication, we stand here free today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by again reiterating my support for the recognition of the Marine Corps and other branches of the Armed Forces on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The characteristics of strength, devotion, and honor ring strong in our hearts today and always, as we recall all those who fell in one of the most important battles in U.S. history.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CERTIFICATION OF IMET FOR INDONESIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the certification of International